



DARPA Grand Challenge 2005

Information for Spectators

August 25, 2005

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The Grand Challenge semifinalists compete at the National Qualification Event (NQE) to qualify as finalists to attempt the route at the Grand Challenge Event (GCE).

NQE The NQE will take place in the infield area of the California Speedway in Fontana, California. The Speedway will be open to the public from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, September 28 to October 5; admission is free. The NQE opening ceremony will commence at 9:00 AM on September 28, 2005 at. The closing ceremony will be held after the last vehicle runs on October 5.

At NQE, 43 teams will test their vehicles on a challenging 2- to 3- mile course. Each vehicle is fully autonomous; navigating the route and determining its own path around obstacles using GPS, cameras, radar, lidar, and other sensors. More information about teams and their vehicles is available at www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge/TeamInfo.html.

Grandstand seating is available for NQE spectators, and viewing locations along the test course will offer close-up views of the robotic vehicles in action.

Accommodations for NQE are available nearby in Ontario, California (www.ontariocc.com/ocvb/home_ocvb.html).

GCE The teams selected to participate in the GCE will be announced on the afternoon of October 5 at NQE. At GCE, vehicles will attempt a challenging desert course that may be as long as 175 miles and may take as long as 10 hours to complete.

The GCE opening ceremony will be held at 6:00 AM on October 8. Vehicles will then be launched into the desert to find their way to the finish line. Grandstands are provided for spectators at the start, and tracking information will be provided through the day. Video highlights will be provided from monitoring points on the course. As vehicles come off the course, spectators will be able to view them and talk to the teams.

GCE spectators may stay in Las Vegas (www.lvcva.com/finder/lodging/traveltrade), Jean (www.clarkcounty.worldweb.com/JeanNV/WhereToStay) or Primm, Nevada (<http://www.primmvalleyresorts.com/>). Exact start and finish location information will be available on the Grand Challenge website as the event nears.

Events at GCE on October 8 may be monitored remotely over the Internet at www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge.